

Message Text

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14

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ADP-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 IO-13 SY-07 M-03

A-01 SS-14 OPR-02 /082 W
----- 027208

P 120813 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7579

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1867

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFCR, PBOR, ACOM, OTRA, IS JO

SUBJ: COURIER SERVICE ACROSS JORDAN RIVER

REF: AMMAN 1233

1. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI ON SEARCH OF VEHICLES, WE TOLD THEM IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION (NOW CONFIRMED BY REFTEL) THAT UN AND RELIGIOUS VEHICLES WERE NOT BEING SEARCHED. WE POINTED OUT USG WAS CERTAINLY ENTITLED TO SAME TREATMENT AS, IF NOT BETTER THAN, OTHER VEHICLES AND THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY EMBARRASSING FOR THIS EMBASSY IN PARTICULAR IF STRICTER MEASURES WERE ENFORCED AGAINST US THAN AGAINST OTHERS.

2. ISRAELI REPLY IN DETAIL WAS THAT THERE IS NO CATEGORY OF VEHICLE WHICH IS ACCORDED EXEMPTION FROM RIGHT OF ISRAELI ARMY SEARCH. THIS RIGHT OF SEARCH IS APPLIED AGAINST EVERY VEHICLE. DEGREE OF ACTUAL SEARCH IS THAT REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH LACK OF SECURITY THREAT IN OPION# RESPONSIBLE ARMY OFFICIAL ON SPOT. IN SOME CASES, MERE GLANCE INTO VEHICLE IS SUFFICIENT; IN OTHER CASES DOORS, TRUNKS, ETC. ARE OPENED. IN ADDITION, MFA SAID, THERE ARE TECHNICAL ELECTRONIC DEFICES THE USE OF WHICH IS NOT APPARENT TO PERSONS IN VEHICLE. AS WE REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 1840, MFA ASSURED US CATEGORICALLY THAT TREATMENT ACCORDED EMBASSY AMMAN COURIER VEHICLE WOULD BE NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THAT ACCORDED ANY OTHER VEHICLE.

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3. WHAT GOI WAS TRYING TO SAY, IN OUR VIEW, WAS THAT THERE CAN BE NO EXEMPTION IN PRINCIPLE FROM SEARCH BUT THAT IN PRACTICE NOTHING WOULD BE DONE TO EMBARRASS US. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, IT WORTH GIVING THE MATTER A TRIAL.

4. REQUEST DEPT' S INSTRUCTION IN THIS MATTER SOONEST.
ZURHELLEN

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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